

Notice of Allowability

Applicant No.

09/912,162

Examiner

Kimberly D. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

SALVATO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4 September 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>1114</u> . |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Acknowledgement is made of Amendment filed 4 September 2003.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Eric Jorgenson on 12 November 2003.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Re claim 1: Replace claim 1 with the following:

- 1. An adapter unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant and reading a product identification code, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, said adapter unit comprising:
- a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, said bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, said top section of said bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant;
- a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of said carrier portion;
- an adapter connector for creating a communications link with said expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and

a product identification reader for reading the product identification code, said product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant through said communications link --.

Re claim 7: Replace claim 7 with the following:

-- 7. An adapter unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, said adapter unit comprising:

a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, said bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, said top section of said bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant;

a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of said carrier portion;

a product identification reader for reading a product identification code, said product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant via said expansion connector; and

an adapter connector for engaging with said expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and wherein said two sidewalls are configured to prevent side-to-side movement of the personal digital assistant relative to the adapter unit and wherein at least one of the sidewalls is configured to provide a gripping surface, said gripping surface radiates in an outward direction relative to a vertical axis perpendicular to said bottom wall --.

Re claim 12: Replace claim 12 with the following:

-- 12. The adapter unit of claim 7 wherein said adapter unit includes a product identification reader that includes an imager --.

Re claim 15: Replace claim 15 with the following:

-- 15. An adapter unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, said adapter unit comprising:

a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, said bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, said top section of said bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant;

a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of said carrier portion;

a product identification reader for reading a product identification code, said product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant via said expansion connector; and

an adapter connector for engaging with said expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and wherein said two sidewalls are configured to prevent side-to-side movement of the personal digital assistant relative to the adapter unit and wherein at least one of the sidewalls is configured to provide a gripping surface, and wherein a portion of said gripping surface extends above the top section of said bottom wall --.

Re claim 20: Replace claim 20 with the following:

-- 20. An adapter unit that is grasped by a user of a personal digital assistant, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital

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assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, said adapter unit comprising:

a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, said bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, said top section of said bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant;

a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of said carrier portion;

a product identification reader for reading a product identification code, said product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant via said expansion connector; and

an adapter connector for engaging with said expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and wherein said two sidewalls are configured to prevent side-to-side movement of the personal digital assistant relative to the adapter unit and wherein at least one of the sidewalls is configured to provide a gripping surface and a side section, and wherein said gripping surface and said side section meet to form a ridge to improve the user's grasp of the adapter unit --.

Re claim 25: Replace claim 25 with the following:

-- 25. An adapter unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, said adapter unit comprising:

a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, said bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, said top section of said bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant and wherein said two sidewalls are configured to

prevent side-to-side and vertical movement of the personal digital assistant relative to the adapter unit;

a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of said carrier portion;

a product identification reader for reading a product identification code, said product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant via said expansion connector;

an adapter connector for engaging with said expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and

a retainer clip for engaging with the top surface of the personal digital assistant and securing the personal digital assistant to the adapter unit --.

Re claim 27: Replace claim 27 with the following:

-- 27. The adapter unit of claim 25 wherein said adapter unit includes a product identification reader that includes an imager --.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-29 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The record of prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an adapter unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant and reading a product identification code, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector; the adapter unit having: a carrier portion having a bottom wall and two sidewalls, the bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, the top section of the

bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant; a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of the carrier portion; an adapter connector for creating a communications link with the expansion connector of the personal digital assistant; and a product identification reader for reading the product identification code, the product identification reader is included between the cover and the bottom wall of the carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant through the communications link.

Janik teaches an adapter/cradle unit for communicating with a personal digital assistant and reading a product identification code, the personal digital assistant having a back surface, two side surfaces defining a width of the personal digital assistant, a top surface and a bottom surface defining a length of the personal digital assistant and an expansion connector, the adapter unit comprising: a carrier portion having a bottom wall, the bottom wall having a top section and a bottom section, the top section of the bottom wall being configured to conform to the back surface of the personal digital assistant; a cover secured to the bottom section of the bottom wall of the carrier portion; an adapter connector for creating a communications link with the expansion connector; and a product identification reader for reading the product identification code, the product identification reader being coupled to the personal digital assistant through the communications link. However, Janik fails to teach the adapter unit having two sidewalls and a product identification reader for reading the product identification code, the product identification reader is included between said cover and said bottom wall of said carrier portion, and coupled to the personal digital assistant through said communications link.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-1798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-8792.

Kimberly Nguyen

KDN

17 November 2003

[Signature]
MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800